

July 2000

(69)

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

10-11-73

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IMMEDIATE DIRECTOR

1. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS GIVEN TO THE STATION AND
AMBASSADOR BY [REDACTED]. THE AMBASSADOR WISHED THAT IT
BE INCLUDED IN THE [REDACTED] DELIBERATIONS.

2. [REDACTED] SPOKE ON 13 SEPTEMBER TO GENERAL CARLO
VALENZUELA, SANTIAGO GARRISON COMMANDER, WHO TOLD HIM ABOUT
HAVING BEEN CALLED IN TOGETHER WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE PREVIOUS DAY TO SPEAK WITH PRESIDENT FREI.
THE MESSAGE FROM FREI WAS THAT HE COULD NOT AFFORD TO WAIT UNTIL
OCTOBER 24TH TO MOVE AGAINST SALVADOR ALLENDE. FREI ADMITTED
HE HAS BEEN AMAZED BY THE SPEED AND EXTENT OF THE MOVES BEING
MADE BY THE POPULAR UNITY FORCES TO CONSOLIDATE THEIR POSITION.
FREI TOLD THE TWO GENERALS HE HAS DECIDED THAT HE WILL
RESIGN AFTER THE NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS (SEPTEMBER 18-19)
LEAVING THE NEXT IN LINE, SENATE PRESIDENT TOMAS PARLO, AS THE
INTERIM PRESIDENT UNTIL NEW ELECTIONS CAN BE CALLED.

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3. VALENZUELA DID NOT HAVE MANY DETAILS BUT HIS UNDERSTANDING IS THAT PABLO IS TO NAME A MILITARY CABINET EXCEPT FOR TWO POSITIONS WHICH FREI HAS SPECIFICALLY ASKED BE FILLED BY THEIR PRESENT INCUMBENTS: MINISTER OF ECONOMY CARLOS FIGUEROA AND ONE OTHER [REDACTED] COULD NOT RECALL. IT IS FREI'S HOPE THAT UNDER PABLO AND A MILITARY CABINET STEPS CAN BE TAKEN TO NEUTRALIZE THE COMMUNIST PARTY. AFTER THE COUNTRY IS CLEANED UP, FREI SAID HE WOULD ACCEPT TO RUN AS CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY IN NEW ELECTIONS.

4. VALENZUELA GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT AMONG THE GENERALS WHO WILL SUPPORT FREI IN THE ABOVE PLAN, THE STRONGEST PERSON IS [REDACTED] AS FREI PUT IT, SCHNEIDER HAS "CONSTITUTIONALISM SICKNESS" AND IS THEREFORE A PROBLEM.

5. PRESIDENT FREI IS OBVIOUSLY AWARE OF THE EMBASSY'S CONTACT WITH VALENZUELA WHICH HAD BEEN ALLUDED TO EARLIER BY [REDACTED] IN MY PRESENT TALK WITH [REDACTED]

6. AS TO THE ACCURACY OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION, NO ONE CAN JUDGE. IT WAS QUITE CLEAR [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THAT VALENZUELA APPEARED TO [REDACTED] AS SINCERE IN WHAT HE REPORTED AND WILLING TO KEEP IN THE ABOVE PLAN AS PRESENTED TO HIM BY FREI.

[REDACTED]